

Guyana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

55 Main Street, Georgetown, Guyana
Tel. No. (592) 231-2504 and (592) 231-2505

www.gyeiti.org

65th MEETING OF THE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER'S GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON JULY 12, 2023 AT 10:00 HRS

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

1. Call to Order and Welcome.

Chairman of the Multi-stakeholders' Group Mr. Michael Munroe welcomed all members and called the Meeting to order at 10:05hrs. He thanked everyone for their contribution for the completion of the 4th FY 2020 Report that paved the way for the lifting of Guyana's temporary suspension by the EITI.

2. Announcements.

Excuses were presented for: -

- (i) Ms Vanelda Harris
- (ii) Ms. Vanda Radzik
- (iii) Ms. Hema Khan

3. Adoption of AGENDA.

The agenda was proposed for adoption by M. Rafeek Khan (I) and seconded by Ms. Kerry Ann Kansinally (C).

4. MINUTES OF THE 64th MSG – consideration and Adoption.

The Minutes will be re-circulated for adoption after the context of the discussion on Carbon Credit under item 6 (b) Review of the FY 2020 Report (ii) -The Treatment of Carbon Credit is reviewed.

5. Implementation of decisions of the 64th Meeting.

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Agenda Item	Issue	Action
5	Employment of an Assistant Administrator -Website management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No decision on the employment of an Assistant Administrator. Recommend this be placed under the remit of the Communications Committee which will address this matter as well as those raised during the review of the FY 2020 report.
6 (a)	IA Committee Report. (a) TOR for FY 2021 EITI Report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The TOR was reviewed incorporating all the comments and recommendations including those emanating from the FY 2020 report review. 2. The revised TOR was previously circulated to members and was on the Agenda for the IA Committee's July 11 Meeting.
6 (b)	Review of FY 2020 Report.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The MSG decided against using a forward for the FY 2020 report.
7	Examination of 2 nd draft of FY 2020 Report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A number of Meetings were convened at the Working Group levels as well as the Special MSG Meetings.
	Approval of Work Plan	Members to review Workplan that will, be re-circulated. Comments are required to be submitted via e-mail within a week.

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		Thereafter it will be sent to the appropriate Committee for its examination.
	Evaluation of the National Coordinator.	Co-Chairs is expected to meet to conclude on this matter.

6. Discussion on the FY 2020 Report- published on June 30, 2023.

The Chair indicated that the FY 2020 report has been published on June 30, 2023. He reiterated his appreciation to all members for their dedication and support to ensure the timely completion. Guyana’s status of temporary suspension was lifted by the EITI Secretariat.

He indicated that the MSG now needs to focus and move ahead with the FY 2021 Report which is due on December 31, 2023.

It was brought to the Meeting’s attention that there are a number of media reactions to the FY 2020 report and, like in the past, there should be some reaction from the MSG. The MSG agreed that the observations be submitted to the Chair of the Communications Committee under whose remit it will be addressed.

The Meeting re-affirmed that the report was accepted and approved by the MSG. The Report was approved via Round Robin on June 29, 2023 and was published on June 30, 2023.

7. Consideration and approval of: (i) TOR for the FY 2021 Report.

Chairman of the IA Committee, Mr. Ryan Ranjit traced the process towards the development of the FY 2021 TOR including the incorporation of the observations identified during the MSG review of the FY 2020 report, in the current draft which was transmitted to the MSG members on Monday – July 10th.

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The Chair reported that the IA Committee in its deliberations at the July 11, 2023 Meeting, although it was not quorate, the industry and government members present expressed their satisfaction with the TOR and the view that it is now in a state of readiness to move to the next step.

He reported that Civil Society primary member did not attend but an alternate member participated. As a consequence, no decision at the committee level was taken.

The IA Chair presented an outline of the timelines pointing to the strict timeline and the short period of 6 months to complete and publish the Report. In this context, he proposed the following for the MSG consideration:

- (i) Approve the TOR for the IA for the FY 2021 report to facilitate the procurement process and timely appointment of an IA.
- (ii) Recommend the Sole Sourcing of the BDO-LLP for the FY 2021 report to ensure timely procurement and the early commencement of the work.
- (iii) The simultaneous procurement for an IA using the open tender method of procurement for a three-year term (3- year Consultancy) for future reports, commencing from FY 2022.

The Government and industry sectors representatives indicated their no objection to the process outlined.

Civil Society's indicated its concerns with the content of the TOR and presented the following.

- (a) Additional support to be provided by the IA to address matters relating to Gender and the Environment to meet the enhanced requirements of the EITI Standards.

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- (b) It is not clear on the roles of the MSG and that of the Secretariat and how stakeholder agencies are receptive to the challenges and cautioned of the need to have systems in place to address these. The Secretariat is also not supportive of the IA Committee.
- (c) The language used in Section 2- (7) is not acceptable. It is deemed discriminatory against civil society and provocative. It speaks to accessing the representativeness of Civil society MSG membership. The view was expressed that if the manner in which the civil society chooses its member is an issue in the TOR then it is logical the same question can be asked of the Government and industry sectors. Questions were asked as to the author of the TOR and why the MSG was not involved in the identification of the person for the preparation of the TOR.
- (d) There are a number of references in the TOR that is not relevant. Sections 1 and 2 are considered irrelevant.

Appropriate responses were provided by the Chair of the IA Committee pointing to the relevant section and text in the revised TOR that addresses the issues; that the effectiveness of monitoring other agencies implementation of recommendations vis-a-vis the EITI Standards rest with the various committees of the MSG and the recommendations relating to this subject during the review of the FY 2020 report are to be further discussed by the MSG.

The IA Chair further elaborated that historically the mandate for the preparation of the TOR rests with the National Coordinator and it is clearly set out in the terms of reference; the text that is of concern was in previous TORs and was never raised as a concern by any sector; he did not differ that the text should be reflective to all sectors not Civil society alone.

It was noted that the TOR was prepared based on the EITI template and sections 1 and 2 were always part of the TOR. The lengthiness of the TOR is as a consequence of the

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additions approved by the MSG during the review of the FY 2020 report and on this basis, it cannot be considered bloated.

It was proposed that, on the basis of the discriminatory nature of the text, it be excised from the TOR. Industry and Government had no difficulty with the suggestion.

Another alternative was examined to review the badly worded text. The new language proposed “Assess the representativeness of MSG membership with the desirability to pluralistic and diverse representation” was discussed and it was recognized that it creates much sensitivities in industry and government sectors and as such was deemed in appropriate and non- applicable.

The MSG met consensus to the removal of the text completely. The Chair tabled a motion that Section 2 number 7 be removed from the TOR and for the TOR for FY 2021 be approved.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Ryan Ramjit. All members present voted in favour.

The other proposals by the IA Chair, as set out below were accepted.

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- (i) Approved the TOR for the IA for the FY 2021 report to facilitate the procurement process and timely appointment of an IA.
- (ii) Recommend the Sole Sourcing of the BDO-LLP for the FY 2021 report to ensure timely procurement and the early commencement of the work.
- (iii) The simultaneous procurement for an IA using the open tender method of procurement for a three-year term (3-year Consultancy) for future reports, commencing from FY 2022 report and onwards.

(ii) Consideration for the prioritized Workplan.

The Work Plan that was previously circulated via Round Robin for members consideration and approval will be re-submitted to members and the following steps were identified:

- (i) MSG members are given a period of one week to submit their comments via e-mail.
- (ii) The Secretariat will conduct a meta-analysis of Guyana's 4 EITI reports to date on the recommendations and action/ responses by the various implementing agencies. This will be used as a roadmap to guide the discussions.
- (iii) A special meeting will be convened to address all workplan matters including giving mandate to the respective committees to expedite the work.

This approach received consensus by all.

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8. Reports by MSG Committees.

Committees did not meet due to the frequency of meetings and members involvement in the finalization of the FY 2020 report. The following were indicated:

- **The Chair of the Communications Committee mentioned that the various matters/ concerns in the media will be collated and shared with MSG members and for any possible reaction from the MSG.**
- **The Chair reported that Co-Chairs will seek to convene and conclude on the matter relating to the National Coordinator.**
- **Chair of the IA Committee expressed thanks to all for their dedication and work over the past three months for the completion of the FY 2020 report.**

9. Any Other Business: None.

10. Close and Announcement of next meeting.

The Chair thanked everyone for their participation and announced that the 66th Meeting of the MSG is scheduled for August 9, 2023.

There being no other business, the Meeting concluded at 11:45 hrs.

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11. Decisions and Action Points.

Agenda Item	Issue	Action	Status
5	Employment of an Assistant Administrator -Website management	The Communications Committee was mandated to address this and other communication related matters arising from the FY 2020 report review.	
6 (a)	IA Committee Report. (a) TOR for FY 2021 EITI Report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Motion was tabled by M. Munroe and seconded by R. Ramjit for the elimination of Section 2 no.7 of the text and to approve the TOR for the IA for the FY 2021 report. This will pave the way for the commencement of the procurement process of an IA. 2. MSG recommend the Sole Sourcing of the BDO-LLP for the FY 2021 report to ensure the timely appointment and the early commencement of the work. 3. MSG approved the simultaneous procurement for an IA using the open tender method of procurement for a three-year term 	

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		(3- year Consultancy) for future reports, commencing from FY 2022	
6 (b)	Review of FY 2020 Report.	MSG re-affirmed the acceptance and approval of Guyana’s FY 2020 Report by the MSG. The Report was approved on June 29, 2023 and published on June 30, 2023. Guyana’s temporary suspension was lifted by the EITI	
7			
	Approval of Work Plan	Members to examine Workplan that will be recirculated and submit comments via e-mail. Special meeting will be convened to examine the workplan and assignment of responsibilities for the various committees.	
	Evaluation of the National Coordinator.	Co-Chairs to conclude and inform the MSG for consideration.	

MINUTES prepared by:

Rajdai Jagarnauth

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Date Prepared: July 17, 2023

Meeting Chaired by:

Michael Munroe



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Date Signed: 05/10/2023

Multi Stakeholder Group

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Appendix A: Attendance Record and Excuses

	Name & Sector	Gender	Members Present	Members Absent	Alternate	Gender	Present	Absent
INDUSTRY								
1	Matt Niewenhous	M	X	w/e	A Gohil	M		
2	R Ramjit	M	X		J Vogt	M	X	
3	A Alphonso	M		w/e	A Jagnandan	M	X	
4	R Khan	M	X		N McLean	M		
CIVIL SOCIETY								
i	M. McCormack	M	X					
2	L. Fiedtkou	F	x					
3	V Radzik	F		w/e				
4-	K A .Cort-Kansinally	F	X					
GOVERNMENT								
9	S Roopnauth	F		Wo/e	T Balgobin	M		w-out/e
10	H Khan	F		w/e	S Richmond	M		
11	V Harris	F		w/e	S Hussain	M	x	

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12	M Munroe	M	X		M Pertab	M		w-out/e
Secretariat Staff								
1	P. Misir	M						
2	Renrick Ramgobin	M	X					
3	Johann Earl	M	X					
4	Richard Budhu	M						
5	R. Jagarnauth	F	X					

APPENDIX B. Agenda

65th MEETING OF THE MULTISTAKEHOLDER'S MEETING

July 12, 2023

ZOOM MEETING: 10:00 HRS

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Welcome
2. Announcements: excuses /attendance
3. Adoption of AGENDA
4. MINUTES OF THE 64th MSG – consideration and Adoption.
5. **Decisions of 64th Statutory Meetings – Status of Implementation**
6. **For Discussion:**
 - **The FY 2020 Report which was published on June 30, 2023.**
7. **Consideration and Approval**
 - (i) **The TOR for the FY 2021 Report.**
 - (ii) **The prioritized work- plan**
8. **Report From MSG Committees:**
 - (i) MSG Co-Chairs
 - (ii) Communications & Outreach
 - (iii) Work -Plan, MSG TOR and Validation
 - (iv) MSG-IA
9. **Any Other Business**
10. **Announcement of Next MSG Meeting**



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